

Name _____



Laughing at Greed

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a powerful story that teaches lessons about kindness, generosity, and change. But did you know that Dickens also used humor and satire to criticize unfair societal norms? Through Scrooge's grumpy personality, the absurdity of certain characters, and witty dialogue, Dickens shows the ridiculousness of greed and selfishness while making readers smile.

At the beginning of the story, Scrooge is the perfect example of an exaggerated miser. He refuses to spend money, even to keep his office warm, forcing his clerk, Bob Cratchit, to work in the cold. When people ask for donations to help the poor, Scrooge coldly suggests that the poor should go to workhouses or prisons instead. His extreme rudeness and ridiculous excuses make him seem so unreasonable that it becomes funny. Dickens uses this humor to highlight the selfishness of wealthy people who refuse to help others.

Another example of Dickens' satire is how he describes the businessmen who talk about Scrooge's death in the future. Instead of being sad, they only care about what will happen to Scrooge's money and belongings. This moment is both humorous and sad—it mocks people who are more interested in wealth than in human life.

Even the ghosts add humor to the story! The Ghost of Christmas Present is large, jolly, and full of energy, a complete opposite to Scrooge's grumpy personality. When Scrooge complains about the poor, the ghost sarcastically repeats Scrooge's own cruel words, making him realize how heartless he has been. This playful teasing helps Scrooge see the truth about himself without being too harsh.

By using humor and satire, Dickens keeps the story entertaining while making important points about society. He shows that greed is not only harmful but also foolish. Scrooge's transformation from a grumpy miser to a generous man proves that change is possible. Through laughter, Dickens encourages readers to reflect on their own actions and be more compassionate toward others.